

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

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### SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION 2008 SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008 / 5PM-SUNSET RAIN OR SHINE / FREE!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK'S 7TH ANNUAL SOLSTICE EVENT TO WELCOME THE SUMMER AND CELEBRATE THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

- "Pagan Rights" musical performance by My Barbarian
- "Cinema On Air," an interactive sound and video project by free103point9 and Electronic Arts Intermix
- "Drum Circle" by JustinJustin and the Alé-Alé Drummers
- Soulstice Ritual by urban shaman Mama Donna
- Solstice artmaking workshops presented by Materials for the Arts, The Noguchi Museum, Queens Museum of Art, Free Style Arts Association, and Socrates Sculpture Park
- Transformation! Face Painting by Agostino Arts



**Long Island City, NY (June 2008)** – On Saturday, June 21 from 5PM until sunset, Socrates Sculpture Park will present its seventh annual Summer Solstice Celebration. This FREE event celebrates the beginning of summer and the longest day of the year with performances, music, art, and food. Visitors can take part in free Solstice artmaking workshops, have their faces painted, enjoy music, picnic in the Park, or just watch the fun!

**My Barbarian** will present "Pagan Rights," an open-air musical performance that celebrates the spirituality movements of the 1970s through a series of theatrical vignettes in which the players represent a Tarot-reading commune, separatist tree-huggers, an Egyptocentric cult, and Wiccan druids, among other eccentric group identities. The three singer/actors Malik Gaines, Jade Gordon and Alexandro Segade will perform soaring harmonies and comedy routines over a pre-recorded orchestra reminiscent of the progressive pop of the psychedelic era, accompanied by live music from flute player Giles Miller and guitarist Tim Koh, backed by mask-wearing dancers and giant cardboard puppets. A sincere spectacle, "Pagan Rights" is a thoughtful, and fun, exploration of the hippie diaspora, tracing counter-cultural histories as a means of making sense, and fun, of the present day. "Pagan Rights" debuted in 2005 at the Evidence Room Theater, LA, and has been performed at venues such as the Hammer Museum, LA; REDCAT, LA; Underground, Drake Hotel, Toronto; Torpedo, Oslo, Norway; and Participant Inc., NY.

**free103point9**, in collaboration with **Electronic Arts Intermix** and Socrates Sculpture Park, invites visitors to join them for a summertime "drive-in," leaving the car at home and incorporating audience participation. "Cinema On Air" will be an evening of projected silent video works, selected from the EAI Collection, including Vito Acconci, Barbara Buckner, Dennis Oppenheim, Martha Rosler, Wolf Vostell, and Jud Yalkut and Nam June Paik; accompanied by two simultaneous sound performances from Damian Catera, Ferrum Virgo, ben owen, and Matt Wellins

heard through radio headphones. Take a seat in the park, tune-in to either of the two live soundtracks, watch the works in silence, or sample all three experiences. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own radios and headphones. A limited number of radios with headphones will be available on site.

**JustinJustin** and **The Alé-Alé Drummers** will also be in attendance, performing "Drum Circle" with emphasis on crowd participation. **Alé-Alé Foundation** is an artistic movement founded by **JustinJustin** that includes Drummers, Brazilian Samba Dancers and Capoeiristas. The Alé-Alé Drummers actively perform throughout the Metro Area with a vast array of talented musicians and special guests.

**Mama Donna** (a.k.a. **Donna Henes**) is an internationally acclaimed spiritual teacher, popular speaker, and award-winning writer specializing in multi-cultural ritual celebrations of the cycles of the seasons and the seasons of our lives. Her joyful celebration of celestial events have introduced ancient traditional rituals and contemporary ceremonies to millions of people in more than one hundred cities for thirty-three years. For a fourth consecutive year, Mama Donna will attend Socrates' Summer Solstice Celebration to present her festive **Soulstice Ritual**.

Kids can participate in creative artmaking workshops throughout the event, presented by **Socrates Sculpture Park, Materials for the Arts, Noguchi Museum, Free Style Arts Association** and **The Queens Museum of Art**; or have their faces painted by **Agostino Arts, Transformation! Facepainting**.

Food will be available for purchase. The Park offers the perfect setting to have a picnic and enjoy the view as the sun sets over the Manhattan skyline.

**Summer Solstice Celebration 2008** will take place in Socrates Sculpture Park amid **Waste Not, Want Not**, a group exhibition including works that interpret and respond to the motivations, goals, realities, politics, and practices of recycling by: Jonathan Allen, The Canary Project (Annie Murdock, Ed Morris, Jussara Lee), Tony Feher, Lars Fisk, Miwa Koizumi, Rainy Lehrman, Carole Frances Lung, Julian Montague, Macrae Semans, Austin Shull, Courtney Smith, Shinique Smith, Jade Townsend & Michael Petersen, Paul Villinski, Letha Wilson, and Randy Wray.

**Socrates Sculpture Park** was an abandoned riverside landfill and illegal dumpsite until 1986 when a coalition of artists and community members, under the leadership of sculptor Mark di Suvero, transformed it into an open studio and exhibition space for artists and a neighborhood park for local residents. Today, it is an internationally renowned outdoor museum and artist residency program that also serves as a vital New York City park offering a wide variety of free public services. The Park's existence is based on the belief that reclamation, revitalization and creative expression are essential to the survival, humanity and improvement of our urban environment.

The Park's Education Program was founded in 1990 and offers a variety of innovative programs to young people in the community. The goals of the Education Program are to provide free alternative, creative activities for neighborhood youth; to teach practical, useful life skills; to build confidence and a sense of personal success and achievement; and to develop creative talents not addressed through other means of academic work.

Socrates Sculpture Park is open 365 days a year from 10am to sunset and is located at the intersection of Broadway and Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City. Admission is free. For directions to the Park, please visit our website: [www.socratessculpturepark.org](http://www.socratessculpturepark.org). For additional information, please contact Ellen Staller at 718.956.1819 ext. 12 or [es@socratessculpturepark.org](mailto:es@socratessculpturepark.org).

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Special thanks to the City of New York, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, City Councilmember Eric Gioia, and the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation, Commissioner Adrian Benepe.

Special thanks to Plant Specialists, Inc.



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